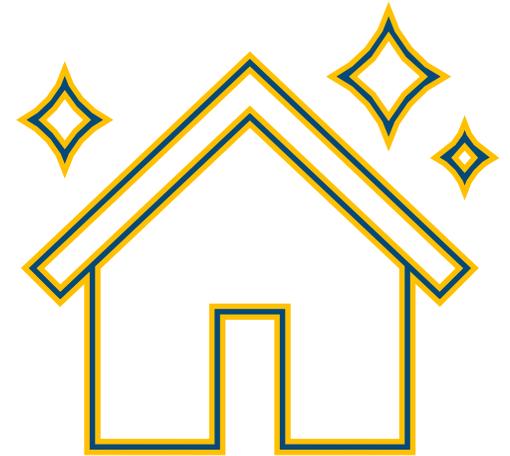# Homeless Leadership Coalition

"Serving Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs."

HOMELESS LEADERSHIP COALITION

Year Point in Time Count

info@cohomeless.org

What is Homeless Leadership Coalition?

It is the continuum of care for Central Oregon, OR-503

HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) program model **promotes regional planning** to prevent and end homelessness.

It's a **collective impact strategy** designed to
- Improve coordination and integration of mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness;
- Secure funding for programs and projects;
- Improve data collection;
- Measure the performance of the homeless response system

In Central Oregon, **Homeless Leadership Coalition** is a convening body and a membership network serving the Tri-County and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

HLC is <u>not</u> an organization, a service provider or a nonprofit.

Measuring our collective impact

Continuums can evaluate success and community needs using Housing & Urban Development's system performance measures.

These include:

- 1st time homeless
- Length of time homeless
- Successful placement and retention of housing
- Returns to homeless
- Increase in income

Limit: participating provider data is collected in our Homeless Management Information System

What is the Point In Time Count

- Point In-Time count, aka PIT, is a HUD mandated, nationwide survey of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January.

- The purpose is to help communities monitor the numbers of people experiencing homelessness, their demographics, potential causes and how individuals are or are not accessing available resources.

- PIT is organized and conducted by Homeless Leadership Coalition and executed by our members and community volunteers across Central Oregon.
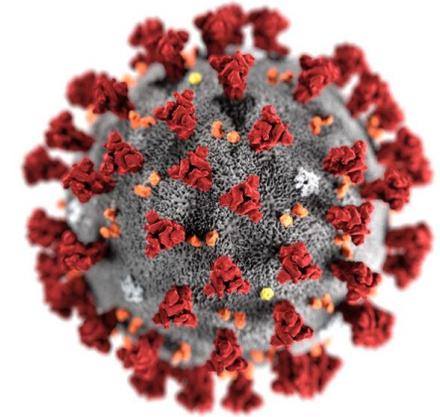
Methodology

- This year, surveys were conducted asking about the night of January 20th

- Agency staff and trained volunteers surveyed individuals in shelters, transitional housing, at local meal sites, health care clinics, hotels/motels, camps, on public lands and by canvassing
  - 710 electronic surveys (counting individuals and households)
  - + 430 additional observational tallies

- All survey information is self-reported by the individual and people had the option to decline to participate entirely, or skip questions

- Survey information is de-identified and kept confidential.

COVID-19 Impacts

To maximize safety but allow for sufficient data collection to understand basic trends among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, HUD provided the following flexibilities for the 2021 unsheltered PIT Count:

- Decrease face-to-face interaction with clients

- Leverage the work of service providers already providing services to unsheltered populations

- Decrease the number of volunteers who need to work in physical proximity

- Design volunteer processes that minimize close contact

- It was recommended not adding questions beyond those the HUD mandated questions.

- Extend the count timeline

info@cohomeless.org

Why is PIT important?

- PIT is our most consistent data collection tool that puts Central Oregon in the context of communities across the state and nation

- While the numbers may present a snapshot, it helps us track trends over time and identify needs in our region

- PIT provides info about the unhoused, their characteristics as well as insights on their barriers to shelter and housing

- It helps service providers monitor and respond to disparate impact and examine if populations are or are not accessing services

- Demonstrates the prevalence of homelessness in Central Oregon year over year

- Helps agencies advocate for additional financial resources at the local, state and federal levels

Who are our unhoused neighbors?

John's Story

Well past retirement and living on a fixed income John loves and independently cares for 3 teenage grandchildren.

Suddenly, John and his grandchildren were without a place to call home.

They found a "safe port in the storm" at the Bethlehem Inn.

POPULATION	2018	2019	2020	2021	% CHANGE
					2020-2021
TOTAL (Adults + Children)	787	880	969	1099	13.42
All Households	572	616	586	836	42.66
Adults (18+ years old)	663	773	604	989	63.74
Unaccompanied Children (<18)	15	20	6	18	200.00
All Youth (18-24 years old)	94	76	71	175	146.48
Unaccompanied Youth (18-24)	83	52	48	154	220.83
Veterans	60	62	59	89	50.85
Chronically Homeless	161	187	139	74	-74.13

2021 Takeaways

1,099
Total (Adults + Children)
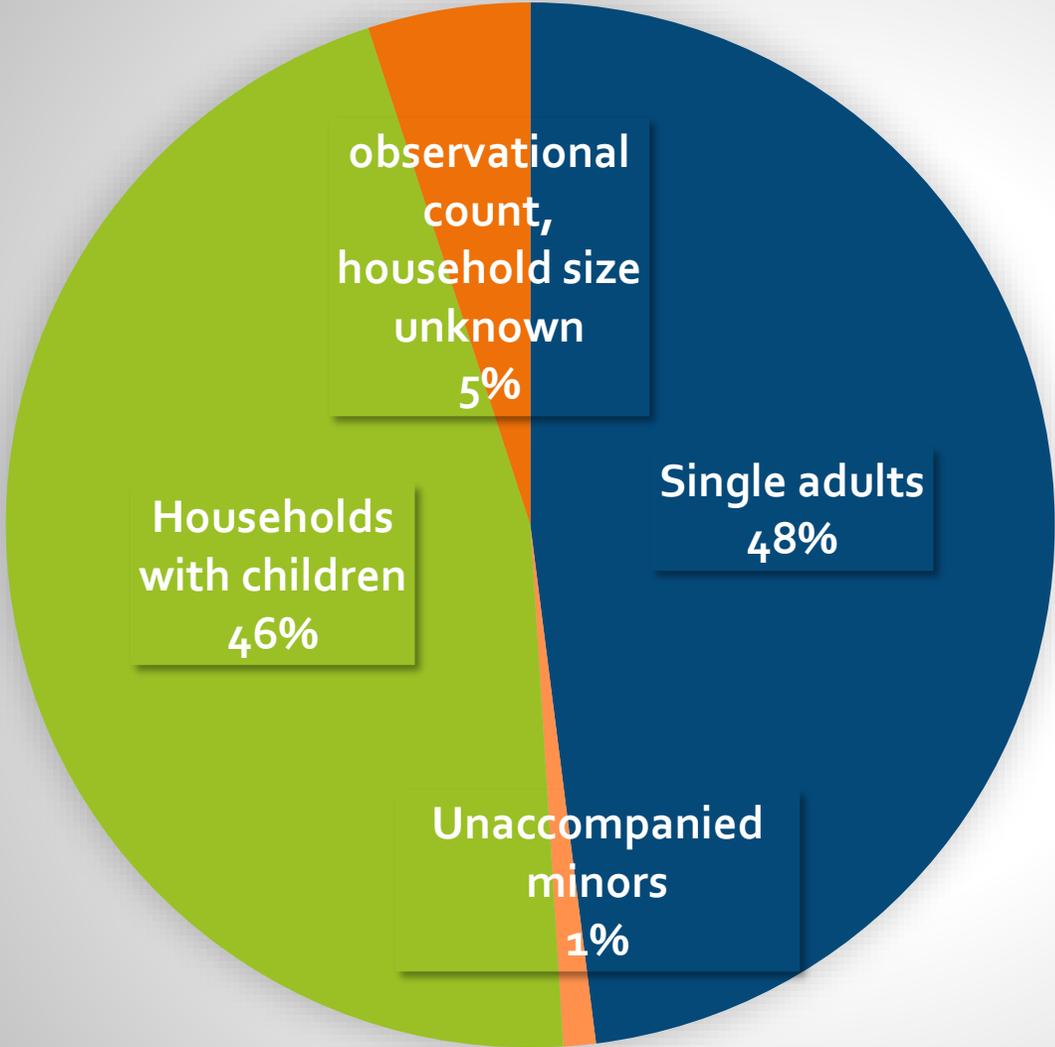
989 Adults
(18+ years old)

154
Unaccompanied Youth

89
Veterans

13%
Increase from 2020

40%
Increase from 2018
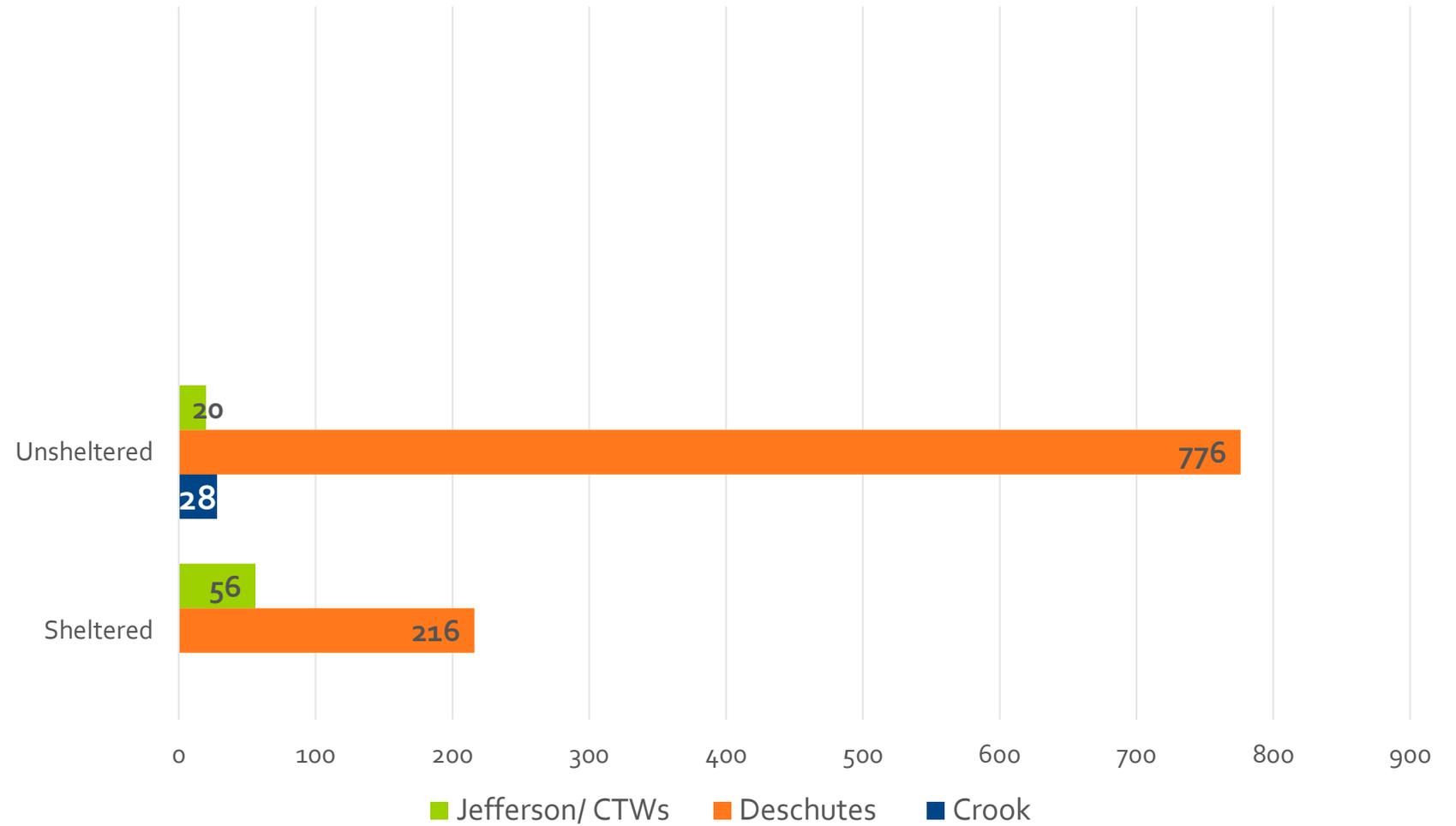
Households experiencing homelessness on Jan 20th, 2021

- Single adults
- Unaccompanied minors
- Households with children
- observational count, household size unknown

observational count, household size unknown 5%

Single adults 48%

Households with children 46%

Unaccompanied minors 1%

74%

of those experiencing homelessness were unsheltered on January 20th

Sheltered vs Unsheltered by County

Unsheltered: Jefferson/CTWs 20, Deschutes 776, Crook 28
Sheltered: Jefferson/CTWs 56, Deschutes 216

Legend: Jefferson/ CTWs, Deschutes, Crook

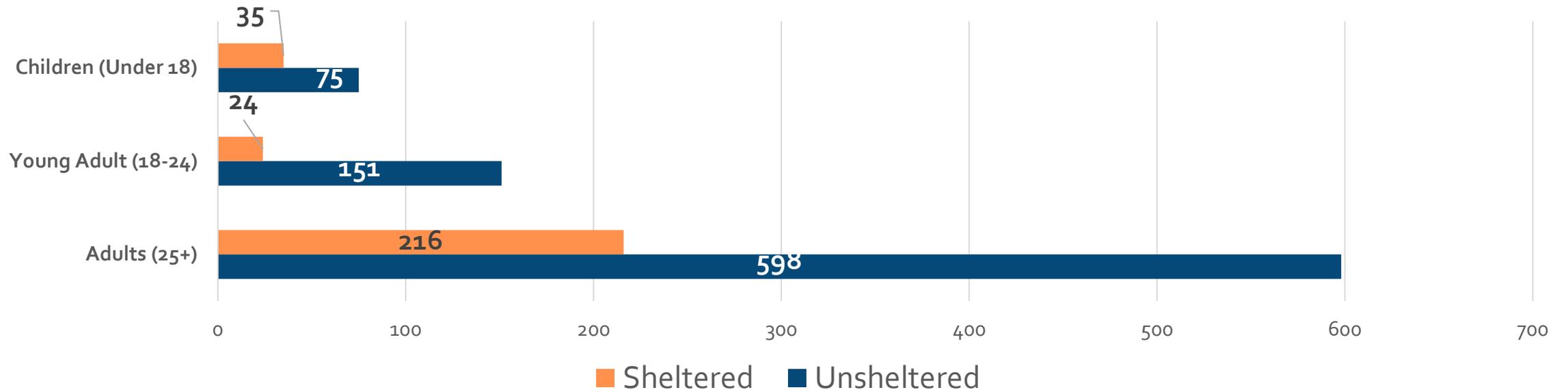# Who are our unhoused neighbors?

Amber's Story

At 16 with the support of medical and mental health professionals Kevin transitioned to express her true gender identity and is now known as Amber.

Living her truth left her without a place to live.

She stayed with friends, then in an abandoned car, and later found support at The LOFT, a program of Cascade Youth and Family Center.

Sheltered Versus Unsheltered Homeless Populace by Age

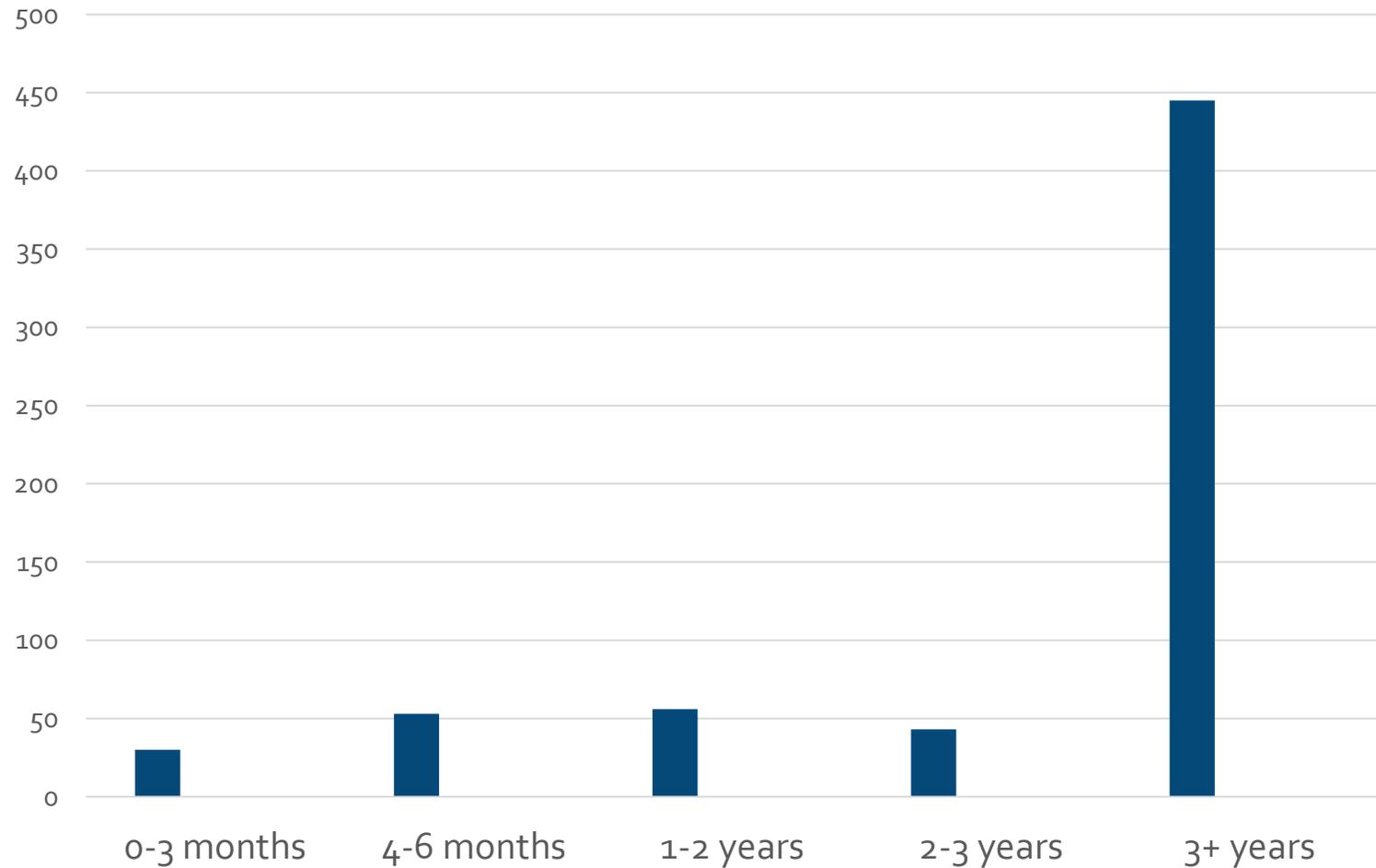|	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Children (Under 18)	35	75
Young Adult (18-24)	24	151
Adults (25+)	216	598

226
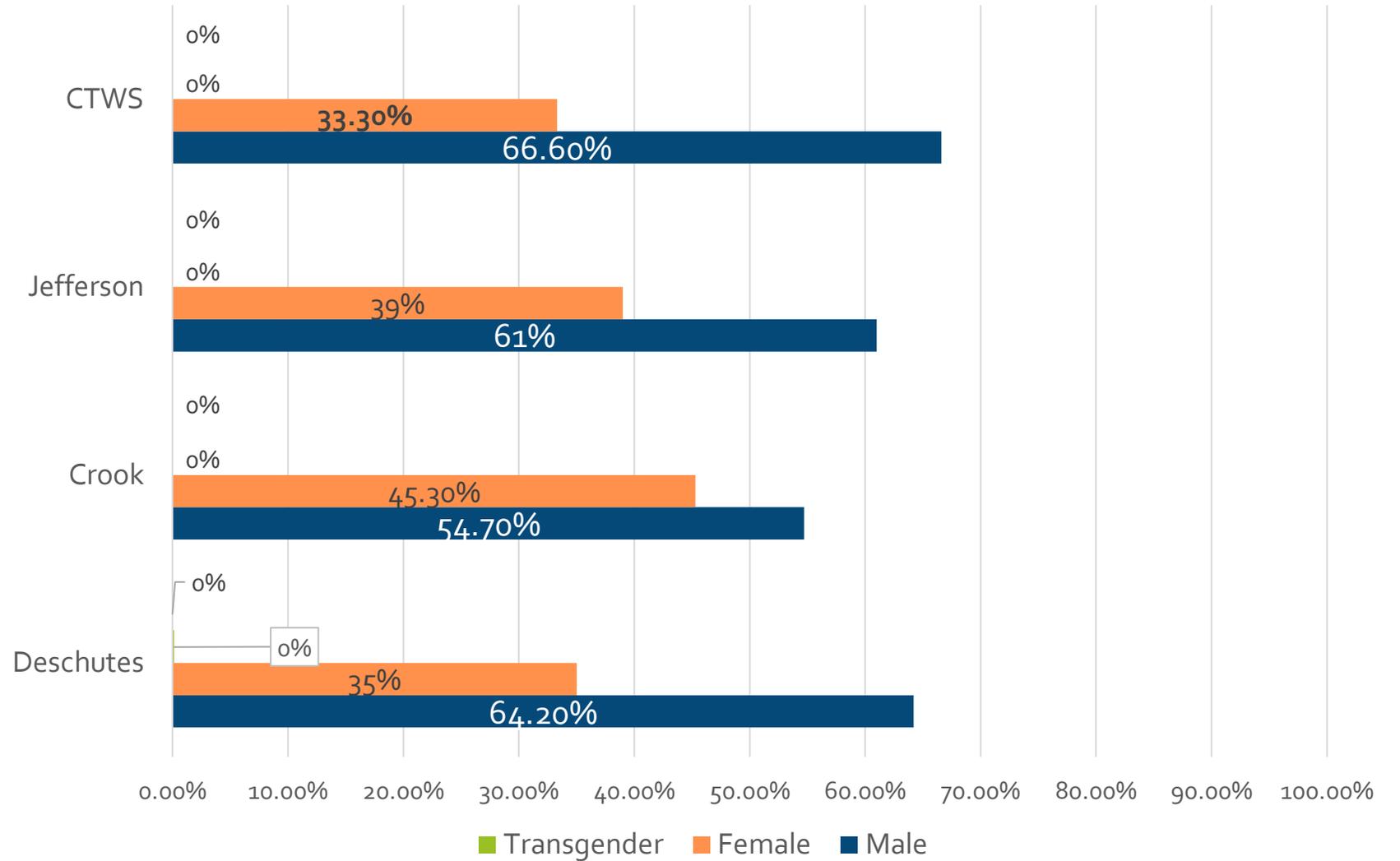people under the age of 25 were unsheltered on the night of January 20th.

Most experiencing homelessness in Central Oregon have lived here for **more than 3 years.**

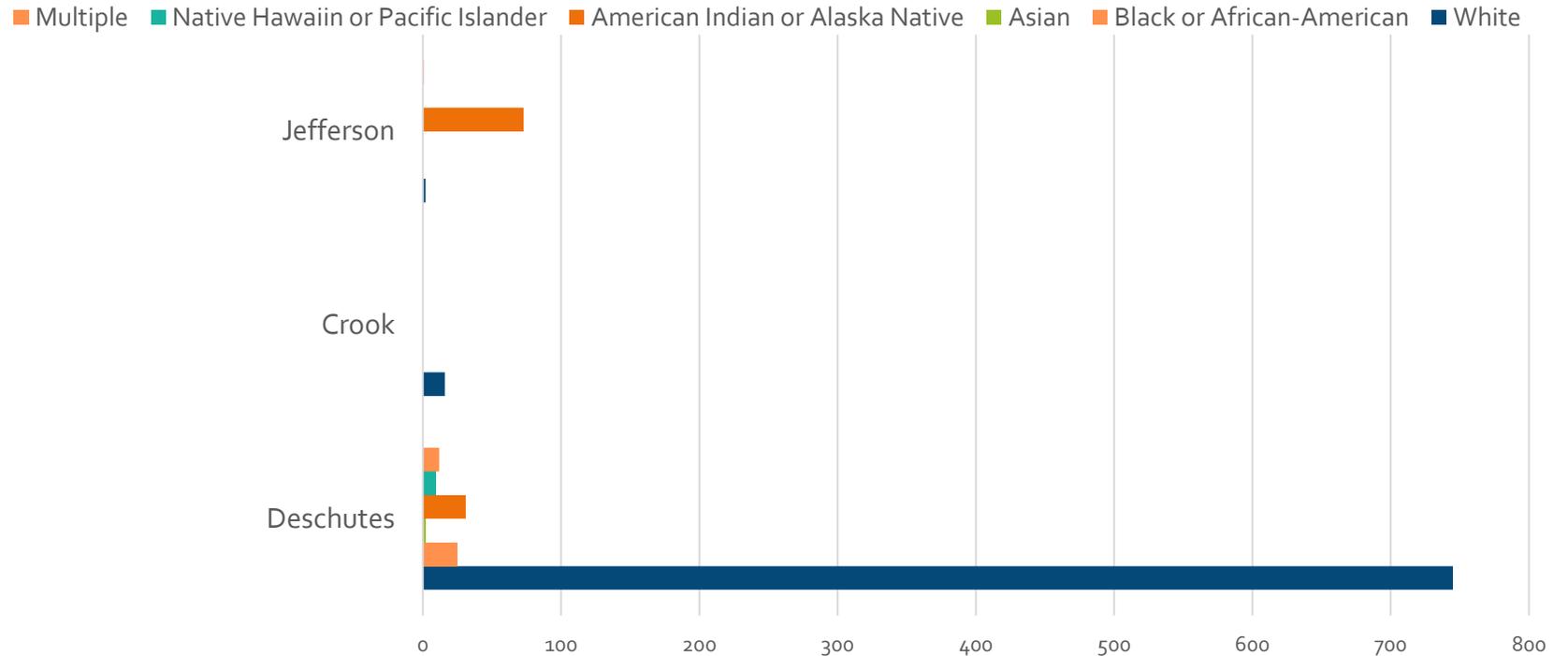How long have you lived in Central Oregon?

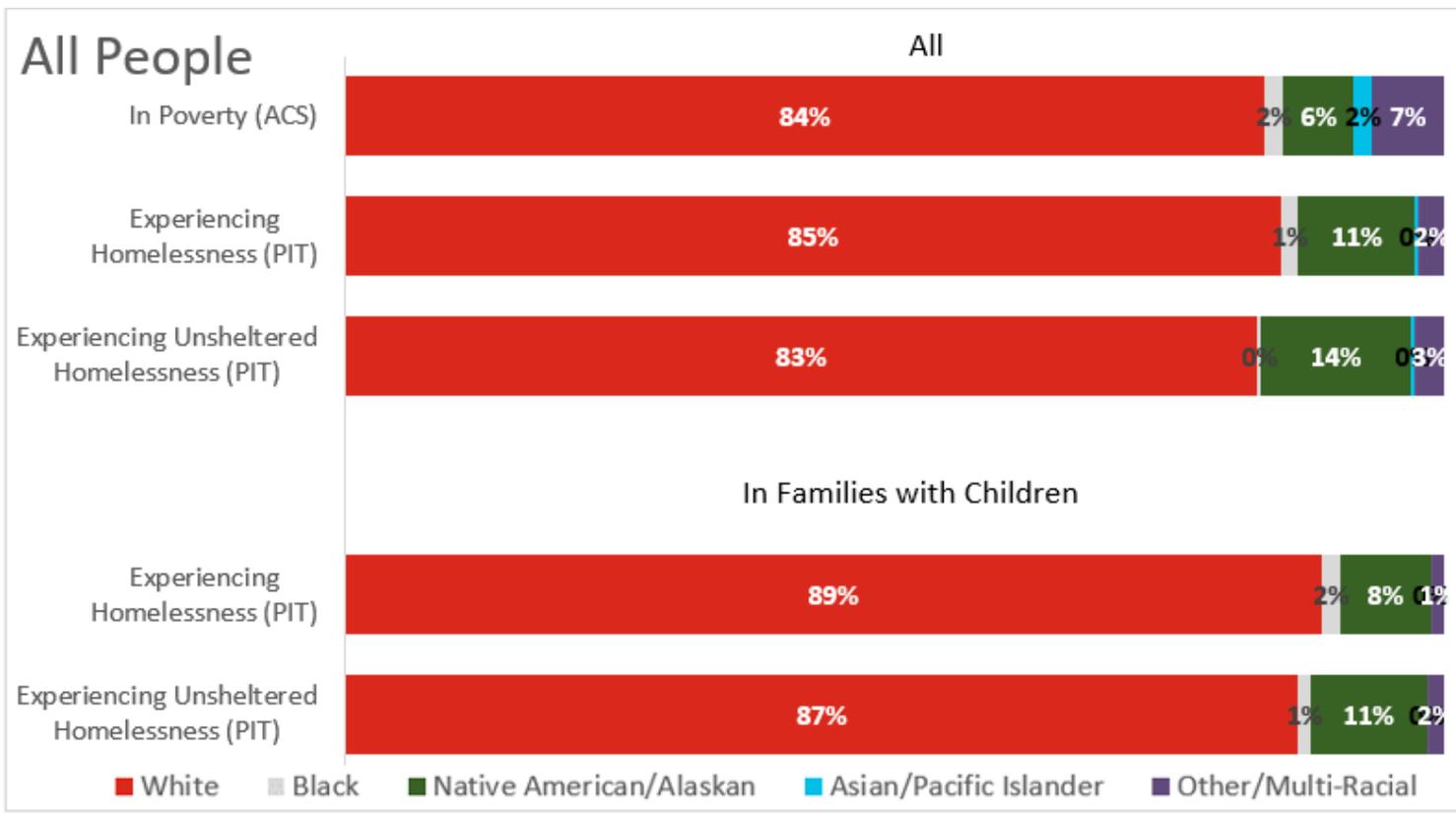# More men than women experience homelessness in Central Oregon

Gender By County

CTWS
- 0%
- 0%
- Female: 33.30%
- Male: 66.60%

Jefferson
- 0%
- 0%
- Female: 39%
- Male: 61%

Crook
- 0%
- 0%
- Female: 45.30%
- Male: 54.70%

Deschutes
- 0%
- 0%
- Female: 35%
- Male: 64.20%

0.00% 10.00% 20.00% 30.00% 40.00% 50.00% 60.00% 70.00% 80.00% 90.00% 100.00%

■ Transgender ■ Female ■ Male

Community members of color are more likely to experience homelessness than their white peers.

Race Ethnicity Breakdowns By County

Legend: Multiple · Native Hawaiin or Pacific Islander · American Indian or Alaska Native · Asian · Black or African-American · White

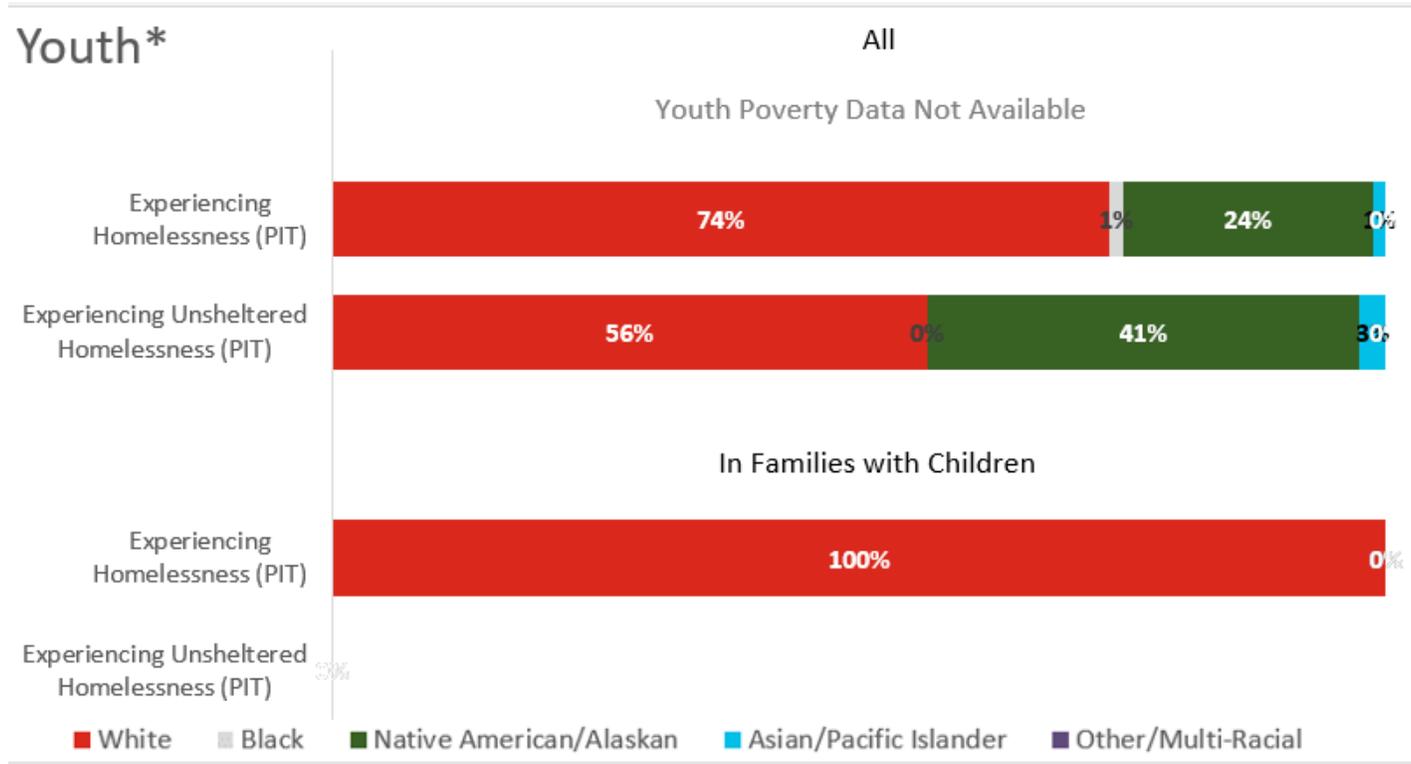|	Deschutes	Crook	Jefferson
Multiple	12	0	1
Native Hawaiin or Pacific Islander	9	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	31	0	73
Asian	2	0	0
Black or African-American	25	0	0
White	745	16	2

**HUD's
Racial Equity Analysis Tool**
(based on 2020 PIT data)

In Central Oregon those identifying as people of color, especially those identifying as Native American/ Alaskan Native/ First Nations experience higher rates of homelessness.

HUD's
Racial Equity Analysis Tool
(based on 2020 PIT data)

This disparity becomes even more pronounced when looking at youth homelessness

* under 25

Who are our unhoused neighbors?

Jason's Story

Jason, a cook in a local restaurant, spent many nights trying to crash on a co-worker's couch or sleeping in a hammock somewhere out of the way. One night he found himself at the emergency shelter.
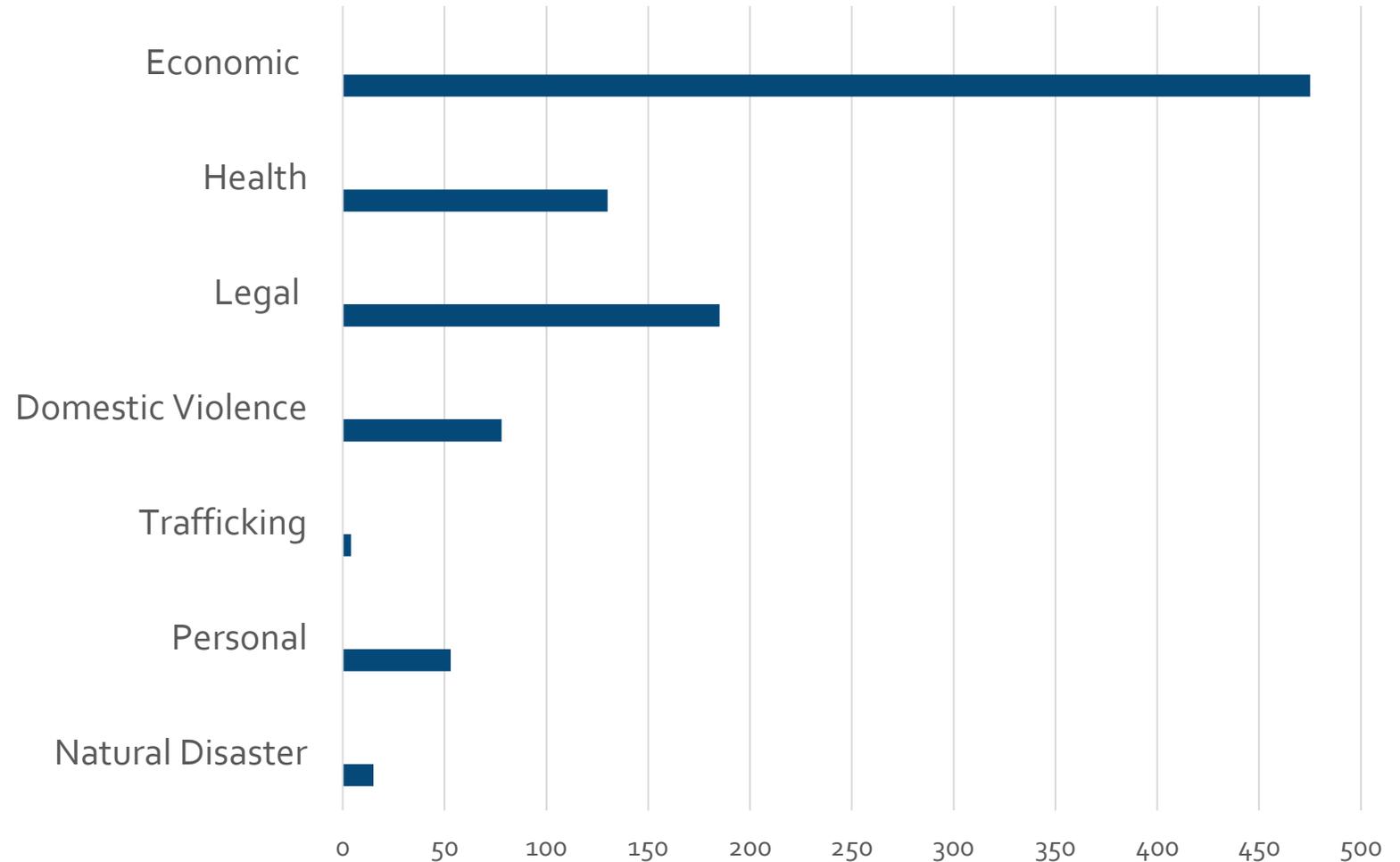
He really wanted to take a shower and charge his cell phone.

He'd run out of places to stay. The weather was too much to endure.

Leading causes of homelessness in 2020

This question was not included on this year's abbreviated survey.

Self reported reasons for homelessness

How do you define homeless status?

Depends on who you ask!

Schools, health care, and various programs have slightly different definitions.

Some include what HUD considers to be *precariously housed or at risk.* Those couch surfing, doubled up w/ friends or family or people living in a motel paying weekly or monthly rates with their own money.

For the PIT count it's more narrowly defined as...

- **Sheltered:** living in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or a hotel/motel paid for with a voucher/ by an agency

- **Unsheltered:** living in areas that are not meant for human habitation (abandoned building, outside, cars, etc.).

Is this count even accurate?

- HLC and HUD acknowledge the count is flawed because there is some variation in count methodology year-to-year.

- Unsheltered counts have more limitations than sheltered counts.

- We believe it to be an undercount based on
  - the number of unique guests in our seasonal emergency shelters
  - the number who decline to participate in the survey
  - the reports from street outreach workers and school-based advocates.

How do we get better data?

- **Communities are moving to real-time, *Quality By Name Lists*.**
  - This means keeping a running list of names of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.

- This method would rely more heavily on our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database, and it will require **more partners** to join us in entering data into this system.

- By continually consolidating data across all agencies working with the unhoused, communities have found it possible to identify everyone experiencing homelessness and support them from first contact all the way to achieving permanent stable housing.

- HLC has committed to a learning cohort to launch this data collection effort locally over the several years.

What is ending homelessness?

Housing ends homelessness.
Ending homelessness means that if someone does experience a housing crisis, our community has the resources and supports to quickly move people back to housing stability

Our goal is Functional Zero.
This number is reached when the number of individuals experiencing homelessness whether sheltered, or unsheltered is NOT greater than the monthly housing placement rate.

Thank You!

Homeless Leadership Coalition